

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (currently amended):** A method for suppressing
2 feedback between an acoustical output of an
3 electrical/acoustical output converter arrangement and an
4 acoustical input of an acoustical/electrical input
5 converter arrangement of a hearing device, ~~wherein~~
6 comprising the steps of
7 - converting acoustical signals impinging on the
8 input converter arrangement ~~are converted~~ into a first
9 electric signal by a controllably variable transfer
10 characteristic, which is dependent on ~~the~~an angle at which
11 said [[at]] acoustical signals impinge on said input
12 converter arrangement;
13 - processing said first electric signal ~~is~~
14 processed and applying a resulting signal ~~is applied~~ to the
15 output converter arrangement; and
16 - compensating said feedback to be suppressed ~~is~~
17 compensated by a feedback compensating signal, which is
18 generated in dependency of the resulting signal and is fed
19 back by a feedback signal path upstream said processing;
20 wherein further
21 - said electric feedback compensating signal is fed
22 back to and superimposed upon the first electric signal and

23 - adaptation rate of said converting to variations
24 of said transfer characteristic is controlled in dependency
25 of the loop gain along said feedback signal path.

1 **Claim 2 (original):** The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising slowing down the adaptation rate of said
3 converting with increasing loop gain along said feedback
4 signal path.

1 **Claim 3 (currently amended):** The method of claims 1 or
2, further comprising ~~minimising~~minimizing amplification of
3 said transfer characteristic at one or more specific angles
4 which accord to angles at which said feedback to be
5 suppressed predominately impinges on said input converter
6 arrangement.

1 **Claim 4 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~
2 ~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, further comprising frequency
3 selectively controlling said adaptation rate.

1 **Claim 5 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~
2 ~~claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, further comprising performing said
3 converting in said first electric signal, and said
4 processing along said feedback signal path in frequency
5 domain and controlling said adaptation rate at selected
6 frequencies in dependency of said loop gain at said

7 selected frequencies.

1 **Claim 6 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~
2 ~~claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, further comprising minimizing
3 amplification of said transfer characteristic at specific
4 angles frequency selectively.

1 **Claim 7 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~
2 ~~claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, further comprising performing said
3 converting into said electric signal independently for
4 frequencies present in said feedback to be suppressed and
5 for frequencies substantially not present in said feedback
6 to be suppressed.

1 **Claim 8 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one of~~
2 ~~claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, further comprising performing said
3 control of said adaptation rate selectively for frequencies
4 present in said feedback to be suppressed,
5 said control comprising switching said converting on
6 and off for said frequencies present.

1 **Claim 9 (original):** The method of claim 8, further
2 comprising performing switching from on to off and/or vice
3 versa steadily during a predetermined timespan.

1 **Claim 10 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one~~ of
2 ~~claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, said hearing device being a behind-
3 the-ear or an in-the-ear hearing device.

1 **Claim 11 (currently amended):** The method of ~~one~~ of
2 ~~claims 1 to 10~~claim 1, said hearing device being an ear
3 protection or a hearing improvement device.

1 **Claim 12 (currently amended):** A hearing device,
2 comprising:

3 - an acoustical/electrical input converter
4 arrangement and an adaptive beamformer unit, said
5 beamformer unit generating at an output an electric output
6 signal dependent on acoustical signals impinging on said
7 input converter arrangement and in dependency of an angle
8 at which said acoustical signals impinge, said beamformer
9 unit having a first control input for varying beamforming
10 characteristics;

11 - a processing unit with an input operationally
12 connected to the output of said beamformer unit and with an
13 output operationally connected to an input of an
14 electrical/acoustical output converter arrangement; and

15 - a feedback compensator unit, thean input thereof
16 being operationally connected to said input of said
17 electrical/acoustical output converter arrangement, an
18 output thereof being operationally connected to the input

19 of said processing unit;
20 and wherein further
21 - said beamformer unit has a second control input
22 for adjusting adaptation rate,
23 - said output of said feedback compensator unit is
24 operationally superimposed with the output of said
25 beamformer unit,
26 - said feedback compensator unit has an output for
27 a loop gain indicative signal, being operationally
28 connected to said second control input of said beamformer
29 unit.

1 **Claim 13 (original):** The device of claim 12 being a
2 behind-the-ear hearing device or an in-the-ear hearing
3 device.

1 **Claim 14 (original):** The device of one of claims 12 or
2 13, being a hearing protection device or a hearing
3 improvement device.